

**National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pennsylvania Field Office**

2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19

Harrisburg, PA 17110-9405

Marc Tosiano, Director

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717-787-3904

Fax: 717-782-4011

nass-pa@nass.usda.gov

www.nass.usda.gov

Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Week Ending April 2, 2006

Issued weekly, April-November

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This report can be found on the Internet at
http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop_Progress_and_Condition/index.asp

Good Week for Field Work: Warm weather has returned to the Keystone State after the month of March repeatedly recorded below normal temperatures. Many areas received great weather conditions with several days of sunshine and warmth to begin farming activities for this season's crop. However dry conditions still remain. This does allow more days for field work but also limits the potential growth of several crops that are all ready planted. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included plowing, hauling and spreading manure, repairing fences and farm equipment, planting corn, sorghum, oats and potatoes.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 2, 2006

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
20	41	38	1

Crops: Spring plowing is now 36 percent complete, well ahead of last year at this time as well as the 5-year average. Planting for the corn crop has recently begun and is only at 1 percent completion. Although none of the winter wheat crop has begun heading, the crop condition for wheat was reported as 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Oats are now 24 percent planted as the crop began to emerge this past

week. The conditions for oats are 54 percent very poor, 8 percent fair, and 38 percent good. Two percent of potatoes and 1 percent of sorghum are now planted, both ahead of the 5-year average for each.

Livestock: Pasture conditions are doing fairly well, but dry conditions are beginning to put stress on some areas. This week's pasture conditions are the following: 15 percent very poor, 21 percent poor, 46 percent fair, 16 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

U.S. as of March 28, 2006: Highlights: Cold air expanded across the United States in the wake of a dynamic storm system, resulting in significantly below-normal readings nationwide, except in southern Florida, northern Maine, the upper Midwest, and the Northwest. Rain boosted soil moisture reserves for newly planted summer crops and in preparation for planting, but short-term dryness worsened in the Northeast.

Overall, below-normal temperatures prevailed across most of the Nation, with the exception of the Pacific Northwest. The Pennsylvania area remained mostly dry.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 2, 2006

Station	Last Week Weather Summary							April 1 - April 2, 2006					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F	
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total	
Northwest													
Erie	76	24	45	5	0.26	2	0.23	0.03	1	12	12	26	
Franklin	76	22	45	6	0.12	1	0.12	-0.10	1	7	7	24	
Meadville	73	22	44	6	0.00	0	0.00	-0.22	0	11	11	24	
Mercer	76	21	46	6	0.12	1	0.12	-0.12	1	12	12	28	
Springboro	74	20	43	4	0.29	2	0.29	0.11	2	11	11	25	
Warren	76	22	45	6	0.45	2	0.45	0.23	2	8	8	22	
North Central													
Bradford Region	71	20	42	7	0.30	2	0.30	0.08	2	10	10	21	
Emporium	78	20	44	7	0.16	2	0.16	-0.06	2	5	5	25	
Kane	74	17	40	5	0.22	1	0.22	-0.02	1	3	3	16	
Laporte	70	26	44	4	0.04	2	0.04	-0.16	2	8	8	24	
Lock Haven	78	24	48	6	0.09	2	0.09	-0.11	2	10	10	30	
Port Allegany	74	17	43	6	0.22	2	0.22	0.02	2	12	12	26	
Renovo	78	24	47	6	0.23	2	0.23	0.03	2	10	10	30	
Ridgway	75	18	42	4	0.17	1	0.17	-0.05	1	3	3	17	
Stevenson Dam	78	23	46	9	0.29	2	0.29	0.07	2	8	8	28	
Towanda	77	24	46	6	0.11	1	0.11	-0.07	1	9	9	29	
Wellsboro	72	26	44	9	0.22	2	0.22	0.08	2	8	8	24	
Williamsport	74	31	50	7	0.01	1	0.01	-0.19	1	19	18	39	
Northeast													
Hawley	74	24	44	6	0.15	2	0.15	-0.05	2	7	7	27	
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	77	30	49	8	0.02	2	0.02	-0.16	2	21	21	41	
Susquehanna	75	25	45	8	0.16	2	0.16	-0.06	2	8	8	28	
West Central													
Butler	76	20	46	5	0.10	1	0.10	-0.12	1	9	9	28	
New Castle	77	22	46	6	0.11	2	0.07	-0.13	1	10	10	29	
Slippery Rock	76	21	46	7	0.01	1	0.01	-0.21	1	14	14	32	
Central													
Altoona/Blair	75	28	48	6	0.03	1	0.03	-0.19	1	16	15	36	
DuBois	74	22	46	7	0.25	3	0.24	0.02	2	13	13	29	
Lewistown	76	28	50	6	0.06	2	0.06	-0.12	2	16	14	36	
Middletown	75	34	53	7	0.09	1	0.09	-0.11	1	25	23	45	
Prince Gallitzi	75	20	42	3	0.22	2	0.22	-0.06	2	5	5	21	
Selinsgrove	75	26	48	6	0.07	2	0.07	-0.13	2	14	14	34	
State College	77	26	49	8	0.15	2	0.15	-0.05	2	15	15	35	
East Central													
Allentown-Bethel	74	30	50	7	0.03	1	0.03	-0.19	1	20	19	40	
Lehighton	73	27	47	4	0.20	2	0.20	0.00	2	10	10	30	
Matamoras	74	25	46	5	0.11	3	0.09	-0.15	2	10	10	30	
Tobyhanna	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	
Southwest													
Pittsburgh/Alle	77	29	51	8	0.18	4	0.12	-0.08	2	17	15	37	
Derry	78	28	48	7	0.32	2	0.26	0.04	1	15	15	35	
Myersdale	75	20	42	-1	0.10	1	0.10	-0.16	1	4	4	23	
Mount Pleasant	77	18	46	6	0.16	2	0.13	-0.13	1	10	10	30	
Pittsburgh Intl	74	23	48	4	0.12	1	0.12	-0.10	1	14	12	33	
Rector	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	
Waynesburg	78	21	46	3	0.07	2	0.02	-0.22	1	11	11	31	
South Central													
Biglerville	76	33	51	6	0.07	2	0.06	-0.16	1	19	17	39	
Everett	77	27	46	4	0.05	1	0.05	-0.15	1	9	9	29	
Hanover	76	26	51	6	0.04	3	0.02	-0.20	2	21	19	41	
Shippensburg	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	
South Mountain	73	26	48	5	0.17	2	0.12	-0.10	1	19	19	39	
York	78	25	50	4	0.08	1	0.08	-0.15	1	22	20	42	
Southeast													
Green Lane	74	31	50	7	0.03	2	0.03	-0.19	2	19	19	39	
Hamburg	74	31	50	9	0.09	1	0.09	-0.14	1	20	20	40	
Hopewell	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	
Lancaster	74	28	51	7	0.04	1	0.04	-0.18	1	24	22	44	
Neshaminy Falls	75	29	49	4	0.02	1	0.02	-0.24	1	15	13	35	
New Holland	71	29	51	7	0.05	1	0.05	-0.17	1	17	15	37	
Philadelphia	75	38	54	7	0.01	1	0.01	-0.23	1	28	26	48	
Philadelphia NE	76	36	53	7	0.02	1	0.02	-0.22	1	30	28	50	
Reading	75	31	52	9	0.04	1	0.04	-0.20	1	25	25	45	
Valley Forge Na	73	28	50	4	0.06	1	0.06	-0.18	1	20	18	40	
Willow Grove	73	34	53	8	0.00	0	0.00	-0.26	0	26	24	46	

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney - Adams County is extremely dry. Some parts of the county received a couple of drops of rain Tuesday into Wednesday morning. Record temps two weeks ago pushed fruit buds which were awaiting warmer temps that we are now receiving. Nighttime temps are 40 degrees and daytime temps are a concern for all fruit crops. Fieldwork is ahead for this time of year but nothing being planted except for some oats and alfalfa seedings. Producers are reporting they think it will be a dry year. Wheat that was planted early looks ok for now but later planted wheat doesn't look too great. Barley is ok for now. Manure is being applied.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - A very dry spring thus far. Less than 0.5 inches of rain for the month. Lots of wind and sun dried the upper layer of soil. Most of the spring work is now caught up, fences repaired, manure hauled, and oats and alfalfa seeded. Waiting for some warm weather to warm the soil for planting corn. Fruit crops look ok at this time. No severe cold damage.

BERKS COUNTY, Theresa Tracey - Berks County reports dry conditions. Spring plowing is about 40% completed. Winter wheat conditions good.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier - Winter wheat took a big hit from geese this year. Some may not recover. Hay is not growing due to lack of rain. Timothy mites are being found in some fields. Good week for field work: fertilizing, liming, working up ground, planting alfalfa and grass hay.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little - Tractors were in the fields plowing. Farmers were getting equipment ready, getting their seed orders in and preparing to plant.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick A Decker - Top soil moisture is low. We need some April Showers. Dry weather has permitted a good start on spring farm tasks.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty - A bit of tillage work has been done. Farmers commenting that springs are not flowing so going into spring with dry conditions.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle - Excellent week for getting barns cleaned out. Farmers were busy spreading manure and working on equipment.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig - Timothy mite levels are extremely high this spring due to unusual late winter conditions. Heavy populations reported across the Capital Region of PA. These high levels combined with extremely dry conditions have severely impacted the development of the timothy crop. Many producers are treating timothy at this time, which is approximately 3 weeks earlier than normal. Some corn has been planted using delayed germination
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seed treatments. Extremely dry soil conditions are allowing farmers to access many parts of fields that are rarely accessed this time of year. Lots of field work completed. Pastures and hay fields slow to develop due to limited moisture levels.

FULTON COUNTY, Russ McLucas - Disgustingly dry here for this early in season.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger - Unusually dry soil conditions for this time of year.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Greg Hostetter - The good part about the dry weather conditions is that it is allowing many manure storages to be emptied rapidly without much chance of soil compaction. Oats and alfalfa seedings are being done in a very timely manner thanks to good field conditions.

LANCASTERCOUNTY, Axel Linde - An amazingly dry March. Lots of dust everywhere. I think no-till will shine again this spring. Farmers are talking about starting to plant field corn next week. Some sweet corn already in the ground.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield - What an unusual spring in Montgomery County. I had farmers asking if it was too early to plant oats. It is typically too wet to do much field work in March, this year there is more manure hauled, ground worked, grass seeded and oats planted by the first of April than most people can ever remember. Pastures and hay fields are greening up nicely, but do not have too much new growth yet. Timothy mites are real concern this spring, their numbers are quite high in many timothy fields. Everyone is hoping for some rain and some warm weather to get things growing.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The soil is dry and many farmers are taking advantage of the early opportunity to plant alfalfa and oats. The fields are greening up very nicely. The main activities for the week were plowing, spreading fertilizer, lime and manure, sowing alfalfa and oats, chopping corn stalks, making last minute repairs to equipment, and attending public sales.

TIOGA COUNTY, J.Craig Williams - Great Week to get equipment ready and many started hauling manure. Soil condition is very nice.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr - Excellent progress has been made with all field work. Grass growth has been slow because of the dry and cold conditions that have persisted through the month of March.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 2, 2006

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	36	3	11
Corn, planted	1	0	0
Oats, planted	24	4	5
Oats, emerged	1	0	1
Tobacco beds, planted	0	0	7
Potatoes, planted	2	0	1

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 2, 2006

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	1	3	36	55	5
Oats	54	0	8	38	0
Pasture	15	21	46	16	2

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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National Agricultural Statistics Service
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